A

FUNERAL ORATION,

DELIVERED

AT THE

INTERMENT

OF

Mrs. LANGLEY,

THE

VENERABLE MOTHER

OF THE

Rev. J. H. LANGLEY,

Miniſter of the Goſpel at ROTHERHITHE.

By the Rev. JOSEPH CARTWRIGHT,

Paſtor of the CHURCH of CHRIST,

IN

LANT-STREET, SOUTHWARK.

LONDON:

Printed for the Benefit of a FAMILY in great Diſtreſs;

And Sold by J. S. JORDAN, No. 166, Fleet-ſtreet; ASH, Tower ſtreet; WEBB, St. Alban's-ſtteet; BUTTON, Newington Cauſeway; TERRY, Paternoſter-row; MATTHEWS, Strand; at the Tabernacle, Greenwich; by the Managers of the Morning Lecture, Artillery-lane, Biſhopſgate-ſtreet; in the Veſtry, at Lant-ſtreet Chapel, Southwark; at Orange-ſtreet Chapel, Leiceſter-ſquare; at the Mulberry Garden Chapel, Wapping; and at Mr. LANGLEY's Chapel, Rotherhithe.

M.DCC.XCI.

BRITISH MUSEUM

READER,

" TO him that is afflicted, Pity ſhould be ſhewed." " Bleſſed is he that conſidereth the Poor." " The Members ſhould have the ſame Care one for another; and whether one Member ſuffer, all the Members ſuffer with it; or, one Member be honored, all the Members rejoice with it; now ye are the Body of Chriſt, and Members in particular."

A few Days paſt, a Family in the utmoſt Diſtreſs, made Application to me, by Letter. That Letter I put into the Hands of ſeveral tender-hearted Chriſtians. Upon Enquiry, it was found, that 12 or 14 Guineas would enable them to live by their Buſineſs, and provide Things honeſt in the Sight of all Men.

More than half that Sum is provided, and our Hopes are very ſanguine that Providence will ſend the Reſt. Perhaps the Profits ariſing from the Sale of this little Book may expediate the ſame. At the Perſuaſion of ſome Friends, who were preſent at the Grave, I ſend it forth, truſting no Man will be offended at my Practice.

If ſuch into whoſe Hands this Production may fall are Partakers of unfeigned Faith, and undefiled Religion, I am ſure, as the Elect of God, they will put on Bowels of Kindneſs.

At the Funeral we had a ſolemn Seaſon indeed: After ſinging, prayer, and reading, I addreſſed the Aſſembly in Language thou wilt find penned in the following Pages:

O Death,

O Death, how terrible is thy Approach to a Pleaſure taker!——to a Formaliſt!——to a Phariſee!——to a Babel Builder!——to a Man! to a Woman infatuated with the Phantoms of a Day, and at the ſame Time deſtitute of one ſingle Thought on everlaſting Realities?—— How ſoon, ſooner perhaps than we expect, will Death bend his Bow, and we ſhall be marked out for dying Victims?

O humbling, mortifying Truth!——where then will be all the Baits of Senſe, the broken Bubbles, and the forgotten Dreams? the Nothingneſs of created Things, and the Shadows of a periſhing Univerſe.

Are our Moments on the Wing? and, is there a Time coming that I muſt become a breathleſs Corpſe?——Yes, nothing ſo ſure. ——I ſhall be a Priſoner, and Death will be a Conqueror, But let us not forget

" Death 'tis a melancholy Day
" To them that have no God"

Then, to uſe the Language expreſſed in a valuable Poem, concerning a Soul living without Pardon, and dying without Peace, how ſhe

Runs to each Avenue; and ſhrieks for Help?
But ſhrieks in vain! how wiſhfully ſhe looks
On all ſhe's leaving? now no longer her's!
O! might ſhe ſtay, to waſh away her Crime,
And fit her for her Paſſage! Mournful Sight,
Her very Eyes weep Blood; and every Groan
She heaves, is big with Horror: But the Foe,
Like a ſtaunch Murd'rer, ſteady to his Purpoſe,
Purſues her cloſe thro' ev'ry Lane of Life,
Nor miſſes once the Track; but preſſes on,
Till forc'd at laſt to the tremendous Verge,
At once ſhe ſinks.——

Not ſo a Believer, having a ſcriptural, a ſpiritual, and an internal Evidence, that his Sins are blotted out by atoning Blood. The Day Star from on high in his laſt Moments viſits his Heart. Jehovah's Throne is opened, and his Faith views the Lamb in the Midſt of it. When the Combat with his laſt Enemy approacheth, he ſkilfully uſeth the Shield of Faith in the Night of Death. The ſparkling Stars of heavenly Graces ſhine bright and glorious. Jeſus, in his dying Moments, ſecures him from all his deadly Enemies. What can the King of Terrors do?——He, has the King of Comforts——being called to the Work he never did, he finds the Strength he never had. His rapturous Joy infinitely exceeds what he had poſſeſſed in his brighteſt Moments. Having felt the Power of God; having taſted that he is unſpeakably gracious, Death is tranſformed; he finds God's Covenant firm and ſtedfaſt; he is in the Hands of his glorious Shepherd. His faultering Tongue ſings its laſt Song, "To him that loved me and waſhed me;" and with his Soul fixed on that Glory to which it is riſing, is conducted to the general Aſſembly and Church of the firſt-born, which are in Heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the Spirits of juſt Men made perfect, and to Jeſus the Mediator of the new Covenant, and to the Blood of ſprinkling that ſpeaketh better Things than that of Abel.

J. CARTWRIGHT.

OCTOBER 8th, 1791.

THE

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DELIVERED AT THE

INTERMENT.

AS divine Providence has put this Opportunity into my Hands, and my Brother has made Choice of me to perform this laſt Office, for his departed Parent; I am encouraged to hope what I have to offer will not be unacceptable to this Aſſembly: therefore, I beſeech you, Men, Brethren, and Fathers, to ſuffer the Word of Exhortation.

The ſolemn Occaſion of our Meeting in this Place, proclaims, as with the Sound of a Trumpet—"It is appointed to all Men once to die." But the Views moſt Men have of Death, are too confined, becauſe their Views, in general, are confined to animal Nature: they imagine, that it is no more than for the Pulſe to ceaſe to beat; the Blood to ceaſe to flow; the Body to grow cold; then to putrify; and, afterwards, to return to its primitive Duſt.—Miſtaken Notion! Fatal Deluſion! Be aſſured, we have never dying Souls, and are not like unto the Beaſts that periſh: attend to the Language of Inſpiration; liſten to the Voice of Jehovah, in

Eccleſiaſtics iii. 19, 20, 21. " For that which befalleth the Sons of Men, befalleth Beaſts; even one Thing befalleth them, as the one dieth ſo dieth the other; yea, they have all one Breath; ſo that a Man hath no Pre-eminence above a Beaſt, for all is Vanity; all go unto one Place, all are of the Duſt, and all turn to Duſt again: Who knoweth the Spirit of a Man that goeth upward, and the Spirit of a Beaſt that goeth downward to the Earth?" Do not theſe Words declare, that in Circumſtances, in Agonies, and Diſſolution, both apparently are the ſame? yet, in Reality, what a Difference! when we die, the Soul and Body are ſeparated; the immortal Part goes to a new World, and enters on a new State; either to a Crown that fadeth not away, or to Fire that never can be quenched.

But what occaſions all this? From whence came Death? And how is it, that our Bodies are liable to the Stroke of the King of Terrors? Some Fanatics, with a ſupercilious Haughtineſs, aver that the forbidden Fruit, taſted by our fœderal Head, poſſeſſed poiſonous Qualities, and from hence ſickly Bodies are tranſmitted to us, which terminate in Mortality.——My Brethren, theſe are wrong Principles, conſequently erroneous Concluſions. How ſtands this philoſophical Notion with the Bible? the Bible ſpeaks of Calamity, but ſays Calamity flows from Iniquity; therefore, let us be ſilent about Bodies filled with Sickneſs, through Poiſon by the firſt Adam, or Bodies filled with Health through the ſecond Adam, and hear the Truth, as recorded in Romans v. 12. " Wherefore as by one

one Man Sin entered into the World, and Death by Sin, and ſo Death paſſed upon all Men, for that all have ſinned." How clear and ſatisfactory is this Account: Sin comes as a Foe to injure us, and as a Thief to rob us: Sin is the Cauſe of Sickneſs, and Sin is the Sting of Death: But will Death, relentleſs Death, for ever reign? Shall his Dominion continue till he has extinguiſhed the human Race, and GOD's People be for ever forgotten in their Duſty Beds, as Veſſels, in whom JEHOVAH has no Delight? No, no, there ſhall be what is called in the Goſpel a Change: we have in the xv. of 1 Corinthians 42, 43, 44. four remarkable Inſtances of that Change.

1. It is ſown in Corruption——It is raiſed in Incorruption.

2. It is ſown in Diſhonour——It is raiſed in Glory.

3. It is ſown in Weakneſs——It is raiſed in Power.

4. It is ſown a natural Body——It is raiſed a ſpiritual Body.

Yes, my Friends, this breathleſs Corpſe, about to be depoſited, ſhall be raiſed glorious and immortal. I own the Sentence of Death is juſt: the Bands of Death are ſtrong, and the Effects of Death are dreadful; but as by Man came Death, by Man alſo came the Reſurrection of the Dead.

You heard the Miniſter, juſt now, read of the two Originals; by the firſt Adam, Mortality and Death; by the ſecond, Reſurrection, and Life: this our departed Siſter experimentally knew: and here I make a Pauſe, while her

her Remains are committed to the ſilent Grave.

* * * * * * * *

And what, my Fellow Sinners, is the Voice of this Providence to each, to all preſent? ſtupified Sinners, and ſelf-righteous Phariſees, ſport themſelves with their own Deceivings; are continually ſaying, Soul take thine Eaſe; and as unconcerned about Death and Eternity, as if theſe Truths were idle Fables. God's Word ſays, a Sinner living in an unconverted State, and dying in an unpardoned State, is expoſed; when Death removes him hence to the Lake, which burneth with Fire and Brimſtone, he will bring his Enemies to his Feet, and take Vengeance on them that obey not the Goſpel.

I, as an Embaſſador of the Word of Reconciliation, declare, upon the Authority of the Goſpel, that Jeſus is able to ſave to the uttermoſt, all that come unto God by him.

Methinks in this Congregation there are ſome doubting diſtreſſed Souls, and their Language is——through Fear of Death we are in continual Bondage——let ſuch poor diſconſolate Souls return to their Habitations, and crave the comforting eſtabliſhing Influences of the Holy Ghoſt to ſhine upon, Judges viii. 23. Manoah, agreeable to Jewiſh Tradition, imagined the Appearance of an Angel muſt occaſion their Diſſolution. His Wife, the weakeſt Veſſel, but the ſtrongeſt Believer, argued well. Huſband, ſaid ſhe, think, O think for a Moment!——the eternal God has promiſed

promiſed the Meſſiah!——he has promiſed us a Son!——he will be faithful!——We have offered a Sacrifice, and he has accepted it, and by that Acceptance, fully proved his Wrath is taken away. Will our Covenant God mock and tantalize, and at laſt deſtroy us?——No, he will not, he cannot.

Let us reaſon in like Manner, and from former Experiences happily conclude, the Work he has begun is a good Work; and reſt aſſured, he will never forſake the Work of his own Hands.

To a Chriſtian, the Properties of Death are altered; the Apoſtle Peter ſpeaks of it as taking down a tottering Tabernacle, whoſe Stakes, and whoſe Pins, muſt be removed: and St. Paul, addreſſing the Corinthians, declares God's Sons and Daughters groan, being burdened; groan under what they feel, and groan after what is promiſed: hear him in 1 Philippians xxiii. "I have a Deſire to depart and be with CHRIST; and if, when I depart, I ſhall be with him, the ſooner the better: here we have the firſt Fruits, there the glorious Harveſt: here we are in the Vale of Tears, and in the Field of Battle; there we ſhall join the Melody of the Lamb's Elect, pouring in from every Quarter of the celeſtial Regions. How was this enjoyed in the Experience of our departed Siſter? True it is, God gave her to feel that ſhe was a Law condemned Sinner, and a Self-condemned Sinner: She, in the Days of her Pilgrimage, was frequently toſſed with Tempeſts, and not comforted: no human Aid could afford her Aſſiſtance; ſhe prayed, ſhe wept, ſhe felt that almighty

almighty Touch, by which a dead Sinner is ſpiritually quickened, but ſtill diſtreſſed, till JESUS, by his ſtill ſmall Voice, told her, from Exodus xv. 26. "I am the LORD that healeth thee." Never did an Iſraelite feel ſuch Advantage from the Brazen Serpent as ſhe felt, when the Almighty Phyſician delivered her agonizing Soul from its tormenting Fears: from that Time, to the Hour of her Death, Grace enabled her to maintain the higheſt Eſteem for the LORD JESUS, his Atonement, Merits, and Righteouſneſs: it pleaſed the LORD to afflict her with a Diſeaſe that baffled the Phyſicians Skill; and I well know, if Medicines, Prayers, and Tears, could have kept her out of Heaven, this had not been my painful Taſk; but ſhe is gone; this Providence has punctually obeyed the divine Fiat; ſhe is gone to Crowns and Thrones of Glory, in her Father's Kingdom.

How ſhall I ſpeak to the different Branches of her Family?——have you this better Part? Your Mother was acquainted with God. She was united to Jeſus according to his Purpoſe before Time, and by a true and living Faith in the Fulneſs of Time?——Is Jeſus yours?—— Is his Righteouſneſs upon you?——and, Is he in your Hearts the Hope of eternal Glory?——By what you ſee,——and hear,—— and feel,——you know you muſt die. Young Women, Daughters of the deceaſed, ſeek not for Happineſs in the World, nor for Righteouſneſs in yourſelves. Do you know the Value of your Souls——the Danger of your Souls? ——This Night your Souls may be required. Job's Language is awful, c. viii. v. 14, 15. whoſe

whoſe Hope ſhall be cut off, and whoſe Truſt ſhall be as the Spider's Web. He ſhall lean upon his Houſe, but it ſhall not ſtand; he ſhall hold it faſt, but it ſhall not endure. How fond is this artful Contriver of its Web, that it may enſnare. Not more ſo than a Phariſee is of his Righteouſneſs, of his Prayers, of his ſacramental Performances; but when the Houſe is cleanſed the Web is deſtroyed; and when Jeſus comes to Judgment, his Words will be to ſuch as loved law Webs——and ſinful Webs——Depart, ye curſed, into everlaſting Fire. May this Stroke be ſo ſanctified, that, for you to live may be Chriſt, and to die gain.

My dear Brother, in what Language ſhall I addreſs you? I do not wiſh to open the Sluices of Sorrow wider than they are. Nature muſt have Vent. We are not meer Machines, but unconditional Grace corrects and ſweetly draws the human Paſſions into Goſpel Subjection.

I know the Bonds of Nature are ſtrong, and ſo, and much more ſo are the Bonds of Grace; I have lately drank deep of this Cup myſelf, ſince I was here laſt. Jeſus has taken my beloved Mother Home. The bitter Ingredients of that Cup led me to wiſh it might paſs away, and, like my fretful Brother Jonah, peeviſhly imagined I did well to be angry, till Jeſus with Authority uttered, "Be ſtill, and know that I am God."

Embrace this Rebuke from your Covenant. Father, this Providence is within the Compaſs of that Promiſe, Romans viii. 28. They work for temporal Good——they work for ſpiritual Good——they work for eternal Good——as the Phyſic

Phyſic poſſeſſing various Ingredients doth, according to the Phyſician's Deſign. I know ſays Paul, they work——Grace makes them work——I know it, ſays he, from my own Experience. I know it from the Experience of others. May this and every ocurring Circumſtance, during your Pilgrimage, be ſo abundantly bleſſed to you, as a Miniſter and a Chriſtian, that you may have a clear Underſtanding in thoſe Things you are to deliver to others. God keep you from the Waverings and the Shiftings of the preſent Day; may the diſtinguiſhing Glories of the Goſpel Scheme be the Joy of your Heart; may you be kept from defiling the Waters of the Sanctuary; may you drink deep into the Things of God, and have a ſolid Underſtanding in the Miſteries of the Covenant; may you ſhun and abhor every new-fangled Doctrine, and ſtand by the good old Truths our Predeceſſors defended, even unto Death; may you be well acquainted with the Mind of Chriſt's Spirit, and ſtand faſt in his Counſel, uttering at all Times ſound Speech that cannot be condemned; and may you, the Members of this Church, find my Brother's Meſſage conveyed to your Souls, in the Demonſtration of the Spirit and of Power, that your Doubts may be ſolved, your Objections anſwered, your Joys excited, and your Souls be eſtabliſhed.

I have treſpaſſed on your Time and your Patience. I will only add, "Conſider what I ſay, and the Lord give you Undeſtanding in all Things." Amen.

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FINIS.